

# ✱ First to Fire Newsletter ✱

## ADA Gets New Chief of Branch

MG Michael A. Vane became Chief of Air Defense Artillery on July 9 as he took command of the U.S. Army Air Defense Center and Fort Bliss, Texas, from MG Stanley E. Green. "I truly appreciate the opportunity to lead this essential branch," Vane said, in his remarks at the change of command ceremony. "I am humbled and excited to take this challenge."

MG Vane was promoted to major general the day of the change of command. He commanded the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss from September 1999 to August 2001. He most recently served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Doctrine, Concepts and Strategy, Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Va.

MG Green, who had served as chief of branch since taking command of Fort Bliss in August 2000, will become Deputy Inspector General at the Pentagon. "It is you I will miss the most when I depart," Green told ADA soldiers assembled for the change of command ceremony. "You have given to your nation in peace and in war, and I would proudly serve with any of you."



*MG Michael A. Vane, left, replaced MG Stanley E. Green, right, as chief of Air Defense Artillery during a July 9 ceremony at Fort Bliss, Texas.*

## Army Assessing Patriot Performance in Operation Iraqi Freedom

The Defense Department continues work with prime contractor Raytheon Co. and other subcontractors to assess the performance of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missile defense system during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Pentagon hopes to release "within weeks" a report on "friendly fire" cases involving Patriot missiles. However, Iraq's unexpected tactic of mixing cruise and short-range but highly accurate ballistic missile launches in attacks on U.S. forces may have more impact on air and missile defense than the friendly fire incidents. Some analysts are predicting Iraqi Freedom lessons learned emerging from the assessment will lend new emphasis to Theater Missile Defense systems—such as the Medium Extended Air Defense Systems (MEADS) and the Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser (MTHL)—that are designed to protect maneuver forces rather from missile attacks.

On March 27, Patriot countered a short-range ballistic missile attack on coalition headquarters at Camp Doha. The narrowly averted disaster discredited Theater Air and Missile Defense critics who alleged ballistic missiles would likely be targeted only at sprawling population centers.

"'Iraqi Missile Kills 40, Ground Forces Commander Among Dead,' could have been the headline on March 27, 2003. In most recent wars, it would have been," former Chief of ADA, LTG (Ret.) Donald M. Lionetti, wrote in a guest column for the El Paso Times. "According to CNN, an Iraqi al-Samoud ballistic missile was on course to destroy the war room at Camp Doha, where allied ground force commander Lt. Gen. David McKiernan was meeting with senior allied officers."

In addition to short-range ballistic missiles and rockets, the Iraqis also fired five Seersucker cruise missiles, weapons designed to attack enemy ships but used instead against targets on land. "This was a glimpse of future threats," said Colonel Chuck Anderson, who served as chief of staff for the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom. "It is a poor man's air force. A thinking enemy will use uncommon means such as cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles to fight on multiple fronts."

While the assessment is expected to reveal a need for continued improvements to Patriot's identification, friend-or-foe identification technology, it is also expected to provide further proof of Patriot's extreme effectiveness. Senior ADA leaders remain confident that air and missile defense will emerge from the investigation as "one of the big winners" among battlefield operating systems deployed during the war in Iraq.

## **Fears of 140A Promotions "Logjam" Dispelled**

An Office, Chief of Air Defense Artillery (OCADA), study has determined that fears of a future promotion logjam in MOS 140A, Command and Control System Integrator, due to large number of CW2s in the primary zone of promotion consideration for CW3 in Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006, are unwarranted. The study predicts that normal attrition, the creation of new air and missile defense organizations and the fielding of future weapons increase systems requirements for 140A Warrant Officers.

"The future for the 140A field looks bright, not only for varied job opportunities but for promotion potential," concludes CW4 Peter Hill. The OCADA career field manager supports this contention with charts and graphs in an *ADA Magazine* article titled "Is a Logjam Developing in 140A Promotions?" at <http://147.71.210.21/adamag/July%202003/New%20140A%20Article.doc>.

## **ADA Battery Commander Rally Point**

Company Command, the popular Army website at <http://www.companycommand.com> has launched the ADA Battery Commander Rally Point. The web log was created and is maintained by CPT Todd Schmidt, Commander, A/1-62 ADA, 25th Infantry Division. CPT Schmidt invites air defenders to visit the web log to "sound off on topics that you feel passionately about, share what you are learning, ask questions of experienced commanders, and—above all—share your knowledge and expertise."

The purpose of the rally point is to connect ADA Battery Commanders across the Army in a space where they can share what they are learning, pass along their best ideas, ask questions, and connect to like-minded leaders," At its essence, it is a professional conversation that allows past, present, and future commanders to tap into the collective ADA experience of the profession. If you are passionate about leading soldiers and building combat-ready teams, join Todd and the other ADA Commanders who are committed to being the best commanders that they can be.

At present, the divisional air defense topics dominate the new ADA Battery Commander Rally Point, but CPT Schmidt envisions it "morphing" into a fully integrated divisional and echelon above corps air and missile defense site. We need to encourage junior ADA officers to support CPT Schmidt weblog, which has great potential to become one of our most valuable professional development tools.

## **RPG Damages 1-3 ADA Avenger, Injures Embedded Reporter**

In Iraq, a 1-3 ADA Avenger was struck and heavily damaged by a rocket-propelled grenade on June 29 during an attack on a security patrol from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery. The attackers fired one rocket-propelled grenade round. One civilian reporter, who was embedded with the unit, was injured in the attack and evacuated to a combat support hospital, but the Avenger crewmen were unharmed.

Shortly after the attack, while soldiers were securing the area and treating the civilian reporter, a white pickup truck with its headlights off was spotted traveling along the highway toward the Avenger.

The pickup truck ran into a fire support vehicle, which was supporting the soldiers in the casualty evacuation process. The impact resulted in the immediate death of two of the pickup's occupants. The third occupant was mortally wounded. Medical personnel from 1-9 FA began treating the wounded civilian, but he died from his injuries before he could be extracted from the vehicle. No soldiers were injured in the collision.

## **Seaborne Missile Defense Test**

The Missile Defense Agency and the U.S. Navy announced June 18 they have conducted a flight test in the continuing development of the AEGIS Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Program, an element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. Preliminary indications are that the SM-3 interceptor missile deployed its Kinetic Warhead, but an intercept was not achieved. The primary objective of this test was to evaluate the SM-3 Kinetic Warhead's guidance, navigation and control operation in space using an upgraded solid divert and attitude control system (SDACS). Government and industry officials will conduct an extensive analysis of the flight test, and the results will be used to improve the AEGIS BMD development and testing program.

This was the fourth flight test of the AEGIS BMD system against an Aries target, with the first three tests resulting in successful intercepts of the target missile. The Aries target missile was launched at 7:15 p.m. EDT (1:15 p.m. HST) from the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the Hawaiian Island of Kauai. The crew of USS LAKE ERIE, an AEGIS cruiser stationed offshore, launched the SM-3 interceptor missile approximately two minutes later.

## **Missile Defense Agency Slowing Space-Based Interceptor Effort**

According to Aerospace Daily, the Missile Defense Agency is slowing part of its boost-phase interceptor program because of financial and technical constraints. "The kinetic energy interceptor (KEI) program had called for developing two test bed systems on similar schedules: one spacebased, the other terrestrial or ground- and seabased," reported Aerospace Daily. "If one system failed to meet expectations, MDA figured it would have an alternative available. But MDA has concluded it cannot develop the two systems in parallel, partly because the space-based system faces much greater technical hurdles than the terrestrial system, including the need to miniaturize satellite components." MDA had hoped to start development of the space-based test bed in FY '05 but now estimates that that phase of the program will be delayed about two years.

## **Army National Guard Loses, Gains Avenger Battalion**

In October, the New Mexico Army National Guard will dissolve 4-200 ADA, one of New Mexico's three Avenger battalions, and recruit a military police unit in its place. 4-200 ADA soldiers will be offered opportunities to join other Avenger unit elsewhere in New Mexico. The Ohio Army National Guard will activate a new Avenger battalion—the 1-174 ADA, before the end of the year to replace the New Mexico Avenger battalion.

## **PEO-AMD Gets New Name**

The Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense (PEO-AMD), Huntsville, Ala., has become the Program Executive Office for Air, Space and Missile Defense (PEO-ASMD). The new name reflects the office's absorption of the Army Space Program Office, which manages and develops networks and weapon systems that use satellites. MG John M. Urias, the Program Executive Officer, said the Army Space Program Office could have gone to other program executive offices, but it was important to place it with an office that supports air and missile defense technology development. "This is a small change in name, but a significant change in mission," Urias said.

## **Army's Low-Cost Interceptor Passes Key Design Review**

The Army's Low Cost Interceptor program has successfully completed a key design review, taking it one step closer to a potential fielding at the end of the decade. The Low Cost Interceptor is intended to work with current systems, such as the Patriot launchers, and future systems such as the Medium Extended Air Defense System and SLAMRAAM.

## **MTHEL Papers Sought**

The Army has begun soliciting white papers from private industry to determine which firms could design and produce a prototype of the Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser (MTHEL). The Tactical High Energy Laser (THEL) successfully shot down artillery shells and Katyusha rockets, but lacked the mobility, sustainability and survivability required for battlefield operations. The MTHEL is being transferred from Space and Missile Defense Command to the Program Executive Office for Air, Space and Missile Defense (PEO-ASMD). The PEO ASMD will gain control of Blue Force Tracking, Situational Awareness and the Army's Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities/ Tactical Applications Office (TENCAP/TAC APPS) Program.

## **Army Releases Report on the Attack on the 507th Maintenance Company**

The Army has released a report on the attack on an element of the 507th Maintenance Company in the city of An Nasiriyah on March 23, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 15-page report states that members of the 507th Maintenance Company fought the best they could in Iraq until there was no longer a means to resist. The *El Paso Time* has posted an unauthorized copy of the report on its website at <http://www.borderlandnews.com/507report/report1.html>.